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**COMMODITY CHARACTERISTICS:**

Bee products include:

- Bee pollen
- Bee propolis
- Royal jelly
- Beeswax
- Honey
- Beehive

**PROCEDURES:**

**1. IMPORTATION OF BEE PRODUCTS**

- from any country, infected or not by varroasis
- for human consumption, industrial use or livestock feed\*

may be imported **WITHOUT RESTRICTION** according to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Animal Health (AH) program.

**N.B. Livestock feed\* must be registered with Feed Section of Plant Products Division (AAFC).**

**RATIONALE:**

The risk of introducing and spreading exotic bee diseases through bee products imported for the above uses is considered to be very low.

**N.B. Used beehives or used beehive equipment cannot be imported in Canada as per Section 57 of the Health of Animals regulations.**

**2. IMPORTATION OF BEE PRODUCTS**

- from any country
- for bee feeding

may be imported according to the Animal Health Program if accompanied by an official certificate from the country of origin stating that the product has been subjected to one of the following treatments:

- proof of irradiation (1.5 megarads) **or**

- proof of "freeze-dried" treatment **or**
- proof of " vacuum packaging"

If, **for any reason**, the document is not valid or is missing, the bee products imported for bee feeding, must be sent **under license (AGR 1509) and sealed by an AAFC inspector directly to a Canadian facility to be irradiated, at the owner/importer expense.**

The importer is responsible to make all necessary arrangements to coordinate this procedure at destination. If the owner / importer refuses to have his products irradiated, shipment is to refused entry.

#### **RATIONALE:**

The risk to introduce and spread exotic bee diseases through bee products imported for bee feeding, if appropriate treatment is applied to the commodity, is considered low.

### **BEE PRODUCTS**

#### **Animal Health Import Procedures**

**AH-96-BP-PA-O2**

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#### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

This general import directive supersedes all AH import directives, either specific or general.

This directive relates to AH import requirements and does not remove any obligation to the Canadian importer to comply with the import requirements of other Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada programs and / or other departments, such as Feed Section of Plant Products Division.

If not prohibited by another AAFC program, the documents mentioned above can be provided by fax to the IPC, prior to importation (AGRI-PARS).

For imported products inspection fees of \$14.95 (AGRI-PARS) or \$25.25 (Regular) are applied, with the exception of USA, whereby no fees are applicable.

***Date of last amendment: February 25, 1997***

**POLLEN:**

Pollen is the male germ plasm of plants and contains proteins, fats, minerals and vitamins. It is collected by the bees from a variety of plants at different times of the year. It is the only protein source collected by the bees for feeding their brood.

Beekeepers collect the pollen every 2-3 days and either freeze it, or dry and clean it for storage. Collected pollen is used for bee feeding, human consumption or pollination of plants.

**ROYAL JELLY:**

Royal jelly is secreted by glands in the head of worker bees and is fed to queens throughout their larval and adult lives, and to young workers and drone larvae. It is high in proteins and is synthesized with the aid of proteins from pollen.

After collection it can be sealed in small vials or freeze dried. It is used as a health food and for its therapeutic value in creams.

**BEESWAX:**

Beeswax is a true wax secreted by glands on the abdomen of worker honey bees. The wax is produced by the bees at the expense of honey production and it can take 6-8 pounds of honey to produce 1 pound of wax.

Beeswax is used in cosmetics, for cold creams, ointments, lotions, lipsticks; candle making and in bee industry for the replacement foundation that goes into frames for brood and honey production. It is also used in pharmaceuticals, waterproofing materials, polishes, furniture wax and light lubricants in manufacturing. Beeswax is processed by melting, straining, filtering, centrifuging and/or bleaching and solidified in blocks of various sizes for shipping. Beeswax is allowed entry because the liquidation process destroys the disease vectors that we are concerned with.

**HONEYCOMB:**

Natural beeswax as built by the bees with liquid honey sealed in the cells. A mass of hexagonal wax cells built by honeybees in their nest to contain brood and stores of honey.

By sight, to tell the difference between honeycomb and beeswax, the beeswax will have very even consecutive cells which have been mass produced or stamped out.

**HONEY:**

Honey is produced by the bees from the nectar of a variety of plants as well as from secretions of sap-feeding insects. The bees collect the nectar into their honey stomach and take it back to the colony. In the process of collecting and taking it to the colony, some enzymes are added and

sugars are altered. The nectar is stored in cells in the combs and the bees work to evaporate the moisture until it is between 16-18 %. At this stage it is honey and because of its very high sugar content (>80%) it keeps very well.

**PROPOLIS:**

Propolis is a sticky, gummy resinous material gathered by bees from trees and other vegetation. Bees use it to reduce the beehive entrance size and encase foreign material. Propolis contains waxes, resins, balsams, oils and pollen.

It is used in alternate medicine because of its antimicrobial properties (tinctures, ointments, creams etc...).

**BEEHIVE:** Any container fit to shelter a colony of bees.